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MYSTERIES

AND

WEIRD *and* STRANGE

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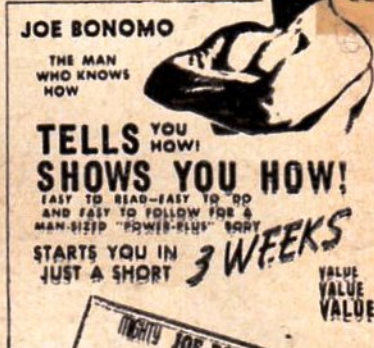
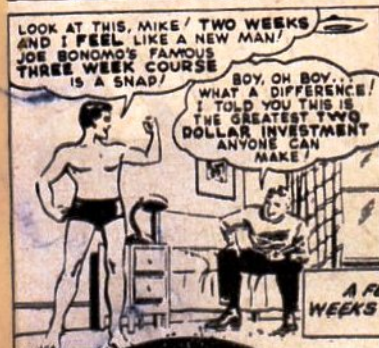


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HAPPILY DEAD
VAMPIRE TERROR



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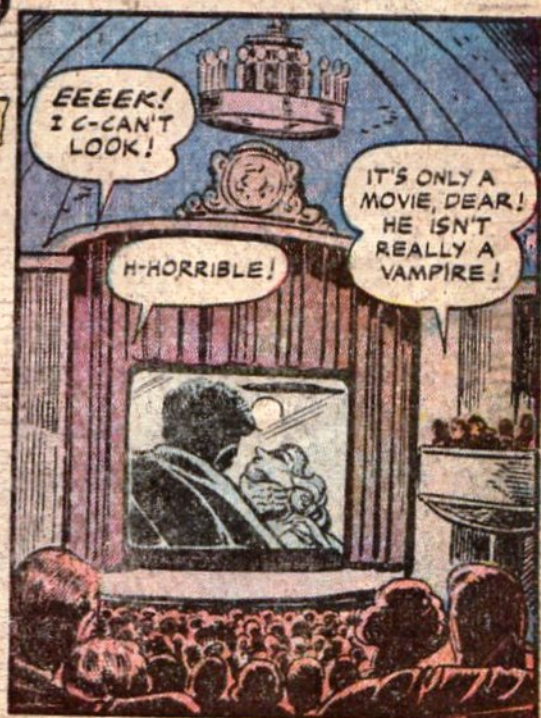
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VAMPIRE TERROR



IN A SMALL MIDWESTERN TOWN A MOVIE AUDIENCE SITS ENTHRALLED AND TERRIFIED...




AFTER THE HORROR MOVIE ENDS...



OH, DID YOU EVER SEE ANYTHING LIKE THAT? THAT BORIS GOFF SCARES ME-- BUT HE THRILLS ME, TOO!

BAH! JUST A HAM ACTOR! YOU WOMEN MAKE ME SICK!


DORIS CHANNING AND LYDIA THOMSON, OLD FRIENDS, DISCUSS THE PICTURE-- AND SOMETHING ELSE...



WASN'T IT JUST SWELL, DORIS! AND TO THINK YOU'RE GOING TO HOLLYWOOD TOMORROW! WHY, YOU MIGHT EVEN MEET BORIS GOFF IN PERSON!

NOW, LYDIA, JUST BECAUSE I WON A TRIP TO HOLLYWOOD DOESN'T MEAN I'LL MEET ANY REAL BIG STARS!

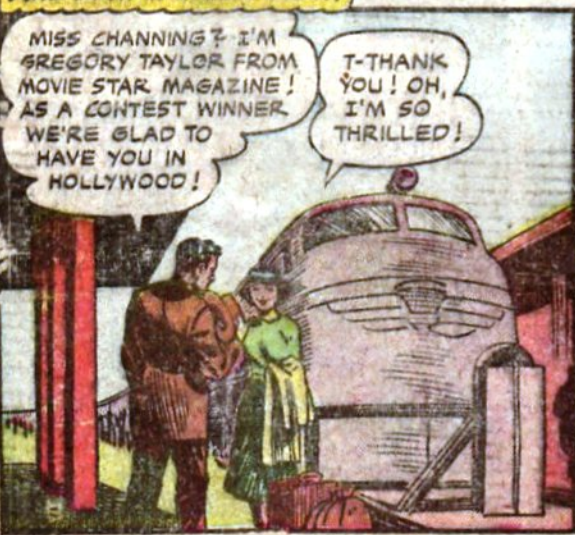
NEXT DAY...



NOW DON'T FORGET TO WRITE, DORIS! I WANT TO HEAR ABOUT EVERY SINGLE THING!

I WILL! BUT I'LL ONLY BE GONE TWO WEEKS, YOU KNOW! I'LL BE BACK IN NO TIME!


AND SOON IN HOLLYWOOD...



MISS CHANNING? I'M GREGORY TAYLOR FROM MOVIE STAR MAGAZINE! AS A CONTEST WINNER, WE'RE GLAD TO HAVE YOU IN HOLLYWOOD!

T-THANK YOU! OH, I'M SO THRILLED!

THAT VERY NIGHT...



GOOD EVENING, MISS CHANNING! I AM BORIS GOFF! I HOPE YOU'RE ENJOYING THE PARTY!

OH! IT REALLY IS YOU! BORIS GOFF! OH--WAIT UNTIL I TELL LYDIA ABOUT THIS!

LATER AS SHE WRITES A LETTER TO HER FRIEND...

DEAR LYDIA: I'M JUST THRILLED TO PIECES! GUESS WHAT? I ACTUALLY MET BORIS GOFF AT A PARTY AND--OF ALL THE HEAVENLY THINGS--HE INVITED ME OUT FOR DINNER! OH--I'M IN SUCH A TIZZY THAT I CAN HARDLY WRITE...



THE NEXT NIGHT...

WELL, DORIS, WHAT DO YOU SAY TO A NICE DRIVE AFTER DINNER? I KNOW A LOVELY SPOT OUT BY THE LAKE!

I--I'D LOVE THAT--BORIS! OH, IT SEEMS SO FUNNY, ME CALLING YOU BY YOUR FIRST NAME!



THE DRIVE STRETCHES ON AND ON, INTO THE DESOLATE HILLS SURROUNDING LOS ANGELES...

FINALLY THEY PARK...

YOU MENTIONED A LAKE, BORIS? BUT...

I SEEM TO HAVE LOST MY WAY SOMEHOW! BUT WHY WORRY--THE NIGHT IS TOO BEAUTIFUL FOR THAT!



THIS IS DIVINE! BUT TELL ME, BORIS, WHY CAN A HANDSOME, GENTLE MAN LIKE YOU PLAY SUCH MONSTERS ON THE SCREEN? VAMPIRES AND SUCH?

VERY SIMPLE, MY DEAR! LOOK AT ME!



I PLAY THEM NATURALLY BECAUSE--- I AM A VAMPIRE!



I'M SORRY, MY DEAR, BUT YOU SEE HOW IT IS! YOU KNOW! SO I CAN'T LET YOU LIVE NOW!

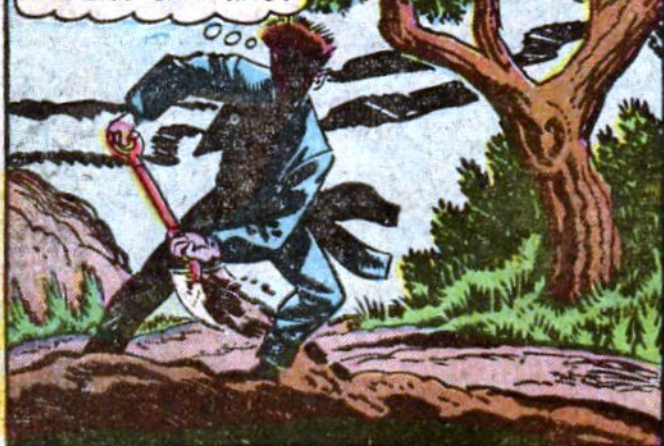
THERE, BORIS, YOU'VE DONE IT AGAIN! LET YOUR EVIL SELF TAKE OVER! BUT THE LUST, THE THIRST, WAS TOO GREAT! NOW WHAT TO DO WITH HER BODY?



EEEEEE!

THAT PROBLEM IS SOON SOLVED...

A LONELY GRAVE OUT
HERE IN THE HILLS!
NOBODY WILL EVER
KNOW WHAT HAPPENED
TO DORIS CHANNING!

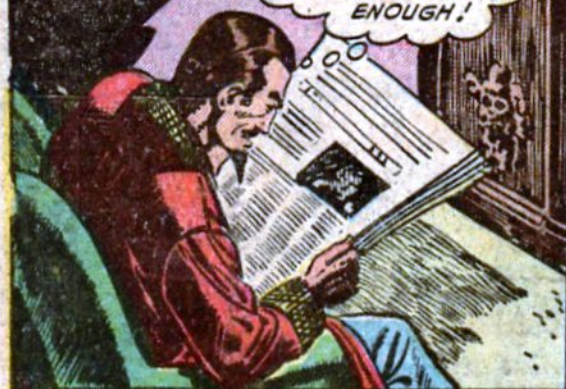


BUT I MUST BE VERY
CAREFUL! IF THE GIRL IS
MISSED-- BUT SHE WON'T
BE, OF COURSE! THEY
WILL SIMPLY ASSUME
THAT SHE HAS
GONE BACK HOME!



FOR DAYS
HE WATCHES
THE PAPERS...

JUST AS I THOUGHT! SHE
WAS JUST A LITTLE NOBODY
AND SHE'S DROPPED OUT
OF SIGHT! NO ONE
CARES! I'M SAFE
ENOUGH!



SO ONCE AGAIN, ON A DARK NIGHT, HIS
EVIL NATURE WINS OUT...

CARE FOR A
RIDE, MISS! I
SEEM TO BE
GOING YOUR
WAY!

OH, THANK YOU!
SAY, AREN'T YOU
BORIS GOFF, THE
BIG MOVIE
STAR?



LATER...

YES, I AM
BORIS GOFF!
MOVIE STAR BY
PROFESSION--
VAMPIRE BY
PREFERENCE!

EEEEEEEE!



AND ON STILL ANOTHER NIGHT HE STRIKES
AGAIN...

OH, HELP,
LET ME GO--
AGHHHH!

I'M TAKING TOO
MANY CHANCES, BUT
I CAN'T HELP IT!
I MUST DO THIS--
I MUST!



BUT ONE NIGHT A FEW WEEKS LATER BORIS GOFF GETS A NASTY SHOCK...

YES, YOUNG LADY? WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU? WHO ARE YOU?

I'M LYDIA THOMSON, A FRIEND OF DORIS CHANNING! I-- I WONDERED IF YOU COULD TELL ME HOW TO FIND HER?

INSIDE... YOU SEE, MR. GOFF DORIS WROTE ME THAT SHE HAD BEEN SEEING YOU! BUT SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED TO HER, I'M AFRAID, AND, WELL, I WONDERED...

GOT TO THINK FAST! SHE COULD CAUSE TROUBLE!

SO... AS A MATTER OF FACT, MY DEAR, I DO KNOW WHERE YOUR FRIEND IS! I PROMISED TO TELL NO ONE, BUT SINCE YOU'RE HER OLDEST FRIEND-- THE TRUTH IS THAT SHE, ER, SHE HAD A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN AND IS IN AN INSTITUTION!

HOW TERRIBLE! CAN YOU TAKE ME TO HER AT ONCE?

LATER... IT--IT'S AWFULLY LONELY OUT HERE, MR. GOFF! ARE YOU S-SURE THIS IS THE WAY TO THE SANITARIUM?

OF COURSE! ONLY THERE IS SOMETHING ELSE I MUST SHOW YOU FIRST!

SOON... JUST OVER THIS WAY, MY DEAR! DORIS AND I PICNICKED HERE ONCE AND SHE ASKED ME TO LOOK FOR A BRACELET SHE LOST!

A BRACELET! I--I DON'T THINK I WANT TO GO ON, MR. GOFF! PLEASE-- TAKE ME HOME AT ONCE!

TOO LATE, MY GIRL! YOU WANTED TO FIND DORIS--WELL THERE SHE IS! DEEP IN THIS GRAVE!

G-GRAVE! YOU MEAN-- OHHHHH!

SO NOW YOU KNOW! WHAT SHE KNEW! AND SO YOU HAVE TO GO THE WAY SHE DID!

NO PLEASE! EEEEEEE!

IN A FEW MINUTES IT IS ALL OVER...

HAH--
AGAIN I'VE SLAKED
MY EVIL NATURE!
HAH-HAH! IT
WAS SO EASY
THIS TIME!



I'LL JUST BURY HER
HERE BESIDE THE OTHER
GIRL AND NOBODY WILL
EVER BE THE WISER!
LUCKY SHE CAME TO ME
BEFORE SHE WENT TO
THE POLICE!



WHAT HE DOES NOT SEE IS THE TERRIBLE HAND
RISING FROM THE GRAVE
BEHIND HIM...

THERE,
PRACTICALLY DONE! SLEEP
WELL AND LONG, LITTLE
DORIS AND LYDIA! NO ONE
WILL EVER KNOW WHAT--
HUH! I-THOUGHT I HEARD
SOMETHING...

HEE-HEE
HEE!



YOWWW--DORIS! B-BUT
IT CAN'T-- Y-YOU'RE
DEAD!

YOU SHOULD
KNOW! HEE--
HEE! YOU
KILLED ME!
BUT SOME-
TIMES THE
DEAD CAN
COME
BACK!



TO AVENGE A
TERRIBLE CRIME!
THAT'S WHY I'M
HERE, BORIS
GOFF!

GAAAA!
STAY
AWAY!



NO USE TRYING TO
GET AWAY, YOU FILTHY
VAMPIRE! YOU'RE
DONE! I'LL GET
YOU NO MATTER
WHERE YOU GO!

YIIIIIIII-- I
CAN'T FIGHT
A THING
FROM THE
GRAVE!



TERRIFIED BY AN EVIL, EVEN GREATER THAN HIS OWN, THE VAMPIRE TRIES TO FLEE! BUT HE STUMBLES AND...

HEE-HEE-HEE! RUN! SEE WHAT GOOD IT DOES! HO-HO-HO! YOU'RE FINISHED!

NO, YOU WON'T! I--GAAAAA, FALLING...



THE STAKE, MY HEART! I'LL DIE FOREVER NOW--UNHHHHH!



AND THAT'S THE END OF ANOTHER VAMPIRE! HEE-HEE! A STAKE THROUGH THE HEART--THE SUREST WAY OF DESTROYING YOUR KIND!



THE CORPSE OF DORIS CHANNING GOES BACK TO FINISH A GRUESOME TASK...

WE WERE GOOD FRIENDS, LYDIA! I'M SORRY IT HAPPENED! BUT NOW WE CAN SLEEP SIDE BY SIDE FOR ALL ETERNITY!



AND I'LL (CHUCKLE) JUST SLIP BACK INTO MY OWN GRAVE! SO WARM, SO COMFORTABLE!



AND SPREAD THE PROTECTING EARTH OVER ME--JUST SO! IT WAS A GOOD--HEE-HEE--REVENGE!



AND THEN THE NIGHT SILENCE IS BROKEN ONLY BY THE SOUND OF HIDEOUS LAUGHTER--FROM A GRAVE...

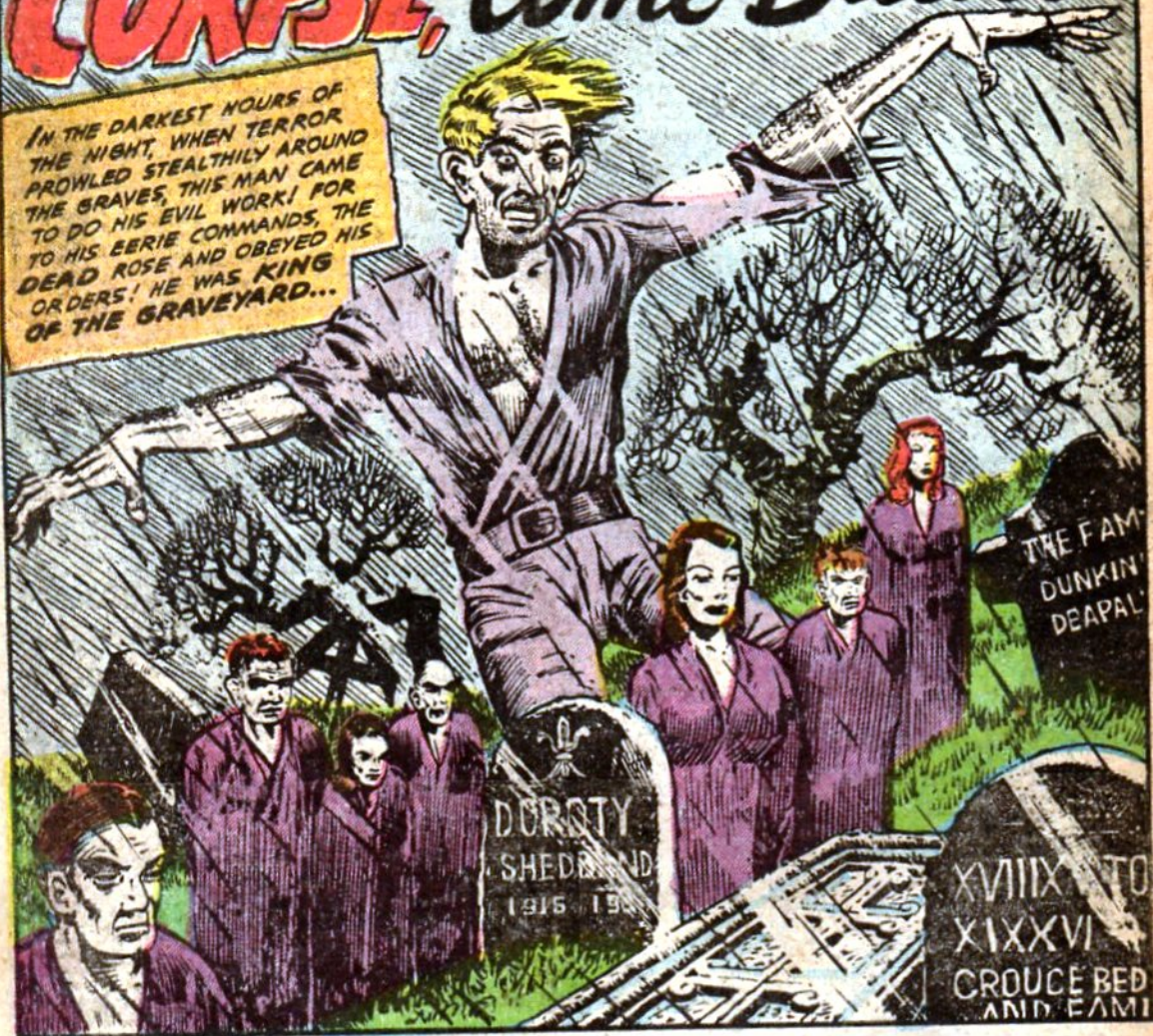
HO-HO! HEE-HEE-HEE!



The End

CORPSE Come Back!

IN THE DARKEST HOURS OF THE NIGHT, WHEN TERROR PROWLED STEALTHILY AROUND THE GRAVES, THIS MAN CAME TO DO HIS EVIL WORK! FOR TO HIS EERIE COMMANDS, THE DEAD ROSE AND OBEYED HIS ORDERS! HE WAS KING OF THE GRAVEYARD...



A DARK AND STORMY NIGHT AS A SINISTER FIGURE ENTERS A LONELY GRAVEYARD...

I'LL SOON KNOW IF MY THEORY WILL WORK! ALL I NEED FOR THE TEST IS ONE FRESH CORPSE!



A NEW GRAVE, JUST FILLED IN TODAY! THIS ONE SHOULD (CHUCKLE) BE FRESH ENOUGH!



WHEN THE GRUESOME TASK IS DONE...

FINE--FINE! JUST WHAT I
NEED FOR MY EXPERIMENT!
BUT NOW TO GET IT OUT
OF HERE...



BUT HE TAKES NO CHANCES...

I CAN USE ANOTHER BODY!
TWO CORPSES ARE (HEE-HEE)
ALWAYS BETTER THAN
ONE!

YAAAAAA!



HALF AN HOUR LATER, IN A DESOLATE AREA...

TONIGHT SHOULD BE THE NIGHT! I'VE TRIED
AND FAILED SO OFTEN--SURELY TONIGHT I
MUST BE SUCCESSFUL!



SUDDENLY...

HEY, YOU THERE!
ROBBINS
GRAVES, HUH!
STOP!

HUH! THE
CARETAKER! IF
HE RECOGNIZES
ME...



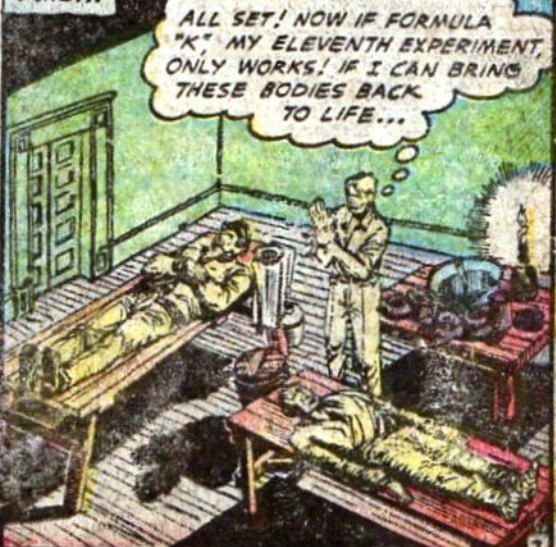
MOMENTS LATER...

THERE! ALL SNUG IN
THE CAR! NOW FOR
HOME AND MY
LABORATORY!



AND...

ALL SET! NOW IF FORMULA
"K" MY ELEVENTH EXPERIMENT,
ONLY WORKS! IF I CAN BRING
THESE BODIES BACK
TO LIFE...



THE INJECTION--SO!
NOW FOR SOME
SIGNS OF LIFE!

BUT HE IS SO INTENT ON HIS STUDY
OF ONE CORPSE THAT HE DOES NOT
SEE THE ONE BEHIND HIM...

THE CORPSE OF THE CARETAKER,
ALIVE NOW, STALKS THE
STARTLED MAN...

I--I'VE FAILED! IT ISN'T WORKING!
NOTHING IS HAPPENING--
NOTHING!

H-HUH! IT WORKED
ON Y-YOU!
YOU'RE
ALIVE!

YOU
SHOT ME!
NOW I'M
GOING TO
KILL
YOU!



NO! I AM YOUR
MASTER! MY BRAIN
CONTROLS YOURS,
DO YOU UNDERSTAND!
I--AM--
MASTER!

UH--
I--Y-YES,
I UNDER-
STAND NOW!

THEN ON YOUR
KNEES TO ME!
PROMISE
THAT YOU
WILL OBEY
ME!

YES--
YES!
I WILL
ALWAYS
OBEY! I
WILL DO
ANYTHING!



TELL ME,
MASTER,
WHAT I
MUST DO!

YOU WILL FIND OUT IN DUE
TIME! MEANTIME YOU WILL
DO NOTHING BUT WAIT--
WAIT UNTIL I FIND WORK
FOR YOU
TO DO!

SUDDENLY, BEHIND HIM, THE OTHER CORPSE
ALSO COMES BACK TO LIFE...

I ALSO HEARD,
MASTER! AND I
AM YOUR SLAVE,
TOO! I WILL
OBEY YOU!

GOOD--GOOD! FORMULA
"K" IS A COMPLETE
SUCCESS! AND SOON,
WHEN I HAVE MORE
CORPSES, I WILL
HAVE MORE OF
YOU!



TIME PASSES AND HE ACQUIRES MORE BODIES!
BUT HE HIDES HIS TIME, FOR THERE IS NO HURRY...



HAH-HAH--! KEEP THEM BUSY! SUCH
TASKS KEEP THEM DISCIPLINED AND
OBEDIENT UNTIL I AM READY
TO STRIKE!

THEY REACH A BANK IN A SMALL TOWN...



THERE! NOW GET TO WORK!
YOU HAVE YOUR
ORDERS! AND
DON'T BUNGLE!

WE KNOW
WHAT TO
DO, MASTER!

THE
JOB
IS AN
EASY
ONE!

AS A TERRIFIED WATCHMAN FIRES IN VAIN...



YIP--C-CAN'T STOP THEM! B-BULLETS
DON'T HAVE
ANY EFFECT!

FOOL! WE HAVE
ALREADY DIED
ONCE!

YOU
CANNOT KILL
US AGAIN!

UNTIL AT LAST...



TONIGHT, MY FRIENDS,
YOU BEGIN TO EARN
YOUR KEEP! I HAVE A
TASK FOR YOU--A VERY
EASY TASK! BUT IT
MUST BE DONE
JUST RIGHT!

WORKING LIKE THE MACHINES THEY ARE, THE
LIVING DEAD PLACE CHARGES AND BLAST
THE BANK DOOR...



IT IS
DONE!
NOW
INSIDE!

GOOD--GOOD!
NOW THE MONEY--
AND LOOK OUT FOR
THE WATCHMAN!

WE
FEAR
NO
BULLETS!

AND SECONDS LATER
THE DOOR OF THE
VAULT IS BLASTED
TO BITS...

GOOD WORK, MEN!
NOW GET IN THERE
AND SCOOP UP THE
MONEY! TAKE
IT TO THE
CAR! HURRY!



SOON...

THAT'S THE LAST OF IT!
NOW COME ON, ALL OF
YOU! THAT DOOR MUST
HAVE BEEN WIRED AND
THE COPS WILL BE HERE
ANY MINUTE!



TOO LATE! THE POLICE ARE ALREADY THERE...

STOP, YOU
GOONS! BETTER
SURRENDER!

GET THEM, QUICK! KILL
THEM SO WE'LL HAVE
TIME FOR A
GETAWAY!

OR
WE'LL FILL
YOU FULL OF
HOLES!

WE
WILL,
MASTER!



YOU
DIE,
POLICE-
MAN!

WE'LL KILL
YOU WITH
OUR
BARE
HANDS!

YOWW!
C-CAN'T
STOP
THEM!



M-MY
NECK--
AGGG!

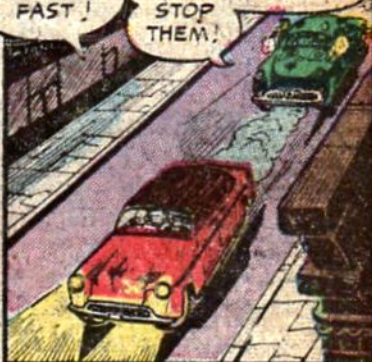
YOUR NECK, HAH!
IT BREAKS IN MY
HANDS!



BUT AS THE ROBBERS SPEED
AWAY ANOTHER POLICE CAR
PICKS UP THEIR TRAIL...

HANG ON, I'M
GOING TO TAKE
THE NEXT
CORNER
FAST!

SHOOT AT THE
TIRES, MIKE!
IT'S THE ONLY
WAY WE'LL EVER
STOP
THEM!



THE CRAZY CHASE GOES ON! SUDDENLY THE EVIL
GENIUS, WITH HIS CARGO OF LIVING DEAD MEN,
WHIRLS INTO A NARROW STREET...

WE'VE GOT TO LOSE
THEM NOW! OUR
LAST CHANCE...



AND THE POLICE CAR SKIDS, GOES OUT OF
CONTROL, AND CRASHES INTO A LAMP-
POST...

YAAAAA!
I'M HURT
BAD!

GAAAAA!
--MY HEAD!



STORE

TIME PASSES AND HIS EVIL SCHEMES PROSPER, WITH WALKING CORPSES AS HIS SERVANTS, HE CAN DO ANYTHING! BUT NOW THAT HE HAS ALL THE MONEY HE NEEDS...

HEH-- ALEXI GORDON, THE MOVIE STAR! A LOVELY WOMAN! AND SHE'S IN TOWN, AT THE AJAX HOTEL!



I'VE NEVER HAD A WOMAN LIKE HER! BUT NOW, WITH MY POWER, WHY NOT? ALL I HAVE TO DO IS GIVE THE ORDER TO ONE OF MY MEN AND...



SO... THERE IS THE HOTEL, AND YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO! REMEMBER-- YOU ARE TO BRING HER TO ME UNHARMED!

I UNDERSTAND, MASTER!



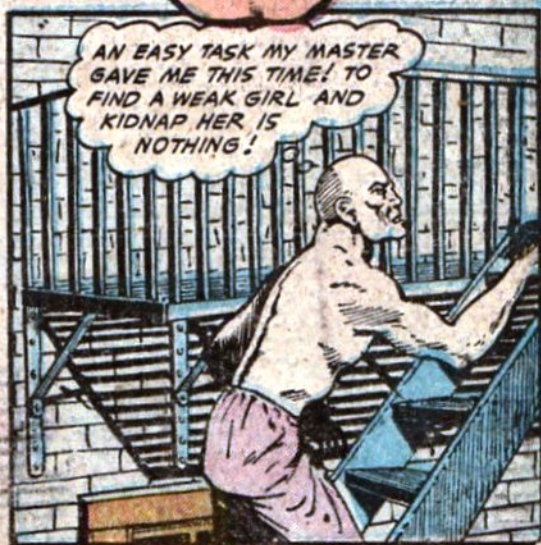
HE FINDS THE ROOM WITHOUT DIFFICULTY! TO HER MISFORTUNE, ALEXI GORDON IS IN...

YOU COME WITH ME, LADY! NO SCREAM! MY MASTER WANTS YOU!

EEEEEEE!



AN EASY TASK MY MASTER GAVE ME THIS TIME! TO FIND A WEAK GIRL AND KIDNAP HER IS NOTHING!



I SAY NOT TO FIGHT, LADY! MASTER DOES NOT WANT YOU TO BE HURT!

OHNNNNH-- AGHHNNH!



TOO SUDDENLY THE STRUGGLE IS OVER...

S-SHE'S DEAD! I KILLED HER! MY MASTER WILL BE VERY ANGRY WITH ME FOR THIS!

MINUTES LATER...

HERE SHE IS, MASTER! BUT SOMETHING WENT WRONG! SHE FOUGHT LIKE A WILDCAT AND...

WHAT? YOU FOOL-- IF YOU'VE HARMED HER I'LL SEND YOU BACK TO YOUR GRAVE!

BUT THE GIRL IS DEAD! INSANE WITH RAGE, THE FRUSTRATED MAN SMASHES HIS FIST INTO THE SERVANT'S FACE...

BLIND, STUPID FOOL! PIG! WHAT GOOD IS A DEAD GIRL TO ME? I HAVE ENOUGH OF YOU DEAD ONES AROUND ME NOW!

BUT WAIT A MINUTE! HMM-- WHY NOT? I BROUGHT THE OTHERS BACK WITH FORMULA "K." WHY NOT THE GIRL! AND THEN SHE'LL BE COMPLETELY IN MY POWER, THE WAY THEY ARE!

SO THE GIRL IS TAKEN TO THE LONELY OLD HOUSE WITH THE OTHER WALKING CORPSES...

THERE! I'VE INJECTED FORMULA "K" INTO HER VEINS! SHE SHOULD COME BACK TO LIFE VERY SOON-- AND BE MY ABSOLUTE SLAVE!

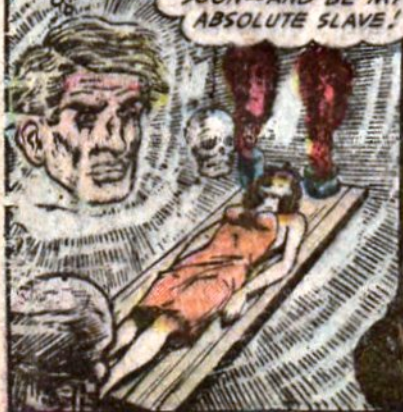
SURE ENOUGH...

I LIVE AGAIN MASTER! I AM YOUR SLAVE! WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME DO TO PROVE MY LOYALTY?

COME HERE, ALEXI! KISS ME!

YOU UNDERSTAND THAT FROM NOW ON YOU MUST OBEY ME WITHOUT QUESTION?

I DO UNDERSTAND! I WILL OBEY!



NOW THAT HE HAS EVERYTHING HE WANTS, THE EVIL CORPSE-MASTER DECIDES TO RID HIMSELF OF HIS FAITHFUL SERVANTS...

BACK TO THE GRAVE WITH YOU! I DO NOT NEED YOU NOW! GO AND RETURN TO THE WET EARTH AND THE WORMS! YOUR OLD COFFINS AWAIT YOU!

HAVE MERCY! WE ENJOY BEING AS WE ARE! THE GRAVE IS SO COLD!

DO YOU DARE QUESTION MY COMMANDS! GO, I SAY! ALL BUT THE GIRL! BACK-- BACK TO THE GRAVEYARD!

WE MUST OBEY YOU, MASTER!

BUT YOU ARE CRUEL! WE HAVE SERVED YOU WELL!



SO AS A BLACK WIND SWEEPS THE NIGHT, A GROTESQUE PROCESSION MAKES ITS WAY TO THE CEMETERY...

WE SUFFER! IF ONLY WE COULD MAKE HIM SUFFER ALSO!

BRR--ALREADY I FEEL THE WORMS IN ME! THIS IS CRUEL-- CRUEL!



WHILE BACK IN THE HOUSE...

NOW, ALEXI, AS FOR YOU AND ME, WE'LL-- WHAT HAVE YOU GOT BEHIND YOU, ALEXI?

YOU WILL SEE IN A MOMENT, MASTER!



THERE IS A DEADLY FLASH OF STEEL...

YOU DIE, TOO! THERE IS A LITTLE OF MY MIND THAT YOU DO NOT CONTROL-- AND IT GIVES ME JUST ENOUGH STRENGTH TO DO THIS! SO-- WE WILL ALL ROT TOGETHER IN THE GRAVEYARD!

NO, YOU CAN'T-- YAAAAAA!



AND IN THE DARK GRAVEYARD THE CORPSES KNEW! THERE WAS A DREADFUL RUSTLING, AN EVIL CHUCKLING AMONG THE FOG-SHROUDED TOMBSTONES...

HE COMES! OUR MASTER COMES!

HEE-HEE! WE WILL TEAR HIM TO PIECES!

WE WILL TAKE REVENGE! HO-HO!



The End



DEATH'S DARK CHAMBER

By JOHN MARTIN

AT THE county line the dark, timbered mine country began. But it was not like anything Sam Wade had ever seen. Mine country was open, with slashed timber extending as far as the eye could see, for open cuts.

A darker, drearier light seemed to rest on this landscape like a dank weight. Far to the west, the ragged edge of a thunderstorm rumbled. Lightning winked fitfully.

Wade cursed. Night was coming on fast. He'd started from Bremersburg in central Pennsylvania in plenty of time to make the old abandoned mine of which the ancient wreck in the seat beside him had talked about. Savagely, slowing the car, he shook the man awake.

"Thought you told me the roads hereabouts were good?" he grumbled.

"Hey? Oh—yeah, mister," said the other, coming out of his drunken sleep. "Tell anybody anything they want to hear for a drink. Local custom. *Hey!*" Hermann Todt sat bolt upright in the seat, stared wildly round him at the ever-darkening skies, the wasteland of writhing, tortured trees. "Where we at now, mister? I never said I'd come out this far!" Todt shuddered. "Not even for a drink."

"So everything you told me was a lie," Wade grated, cursing himself for wasting a whole bottle of booze on Todt.

"Just—just about the roads," Todt said, trembling. "There is an old abandoned mine out 'long here. How—how'd I get here?"

"Your own fault," Wade said. "Drank too much. When I asked you to guide me out here, you said you would. Then you fell asleep in the car."

"Musta been crazy," Todt mumbled. "No man in his right mind would come out here—not 'long this road. There's things here, mister, things that ain't healthy, nohow!"

Wade snorted. Now that he knew the mine really existed he was content just to reach it, look the ground over. A stock promoter of uncertain reputation, almost broke, he'd got the idea of selling mine stock based on a real mine. It would be phony, of course, but the mine would be there and, while he was collecting the dough, any of the suckers could go see the pit. By that time, he knew, he'd be well on his way to South Africa and independence.

Wade chuckled deep in his throat.

"Bad country, mister," Todt said. "Bad. That's why it ain't settled down. That's why

the mine's abandoned. Plenty o' coal there, but . . ."

"But what?" Wade asked. The road was getting bumpier. On both sides the trees closed in like a dim tunnel. And now rain began to fall. Overhead, thunder roared closer.

TODT OPENED his mouth to reply, but shut it. "Todt, you're a superstitious fool!" Wade grunted. "I always thought you Pennsylvania Dutch crazy as woodticks. Houses painted with hex signs! Barns dedicated with prayers against evil. Faugh!"

"Evil's all round in this world," Todt mumbled. "Specially here. You think the folk round here are crazy, hey? You think they raised those hex signs and spoke prayers against *nothin'!*" Suddenly he burst into a mad laugh. "Look, mister, maybe you ain't afraid. I'm smarter. When a mine, a whole mess of countryside, is abandoned, let go to seed, there's reasons! All I say is, let's get there—and get back!"

Ahead, over the top of the swaying trees Wade could see, now, the old winding head of the mine. The car shot up a slope and emerged suddenly into a wide, open space atop the rise. Ruined, wooden buildings formed three sides of a square around the winding head. The pit itself loomed in the middle distance, with the wooden elevator cage suspended above it.

Wade stopped the car, got out. Again Todt laughed crazily.

"Look-it them coal bunkers!" he wheezed. "Full. Mine's full o' coal, too. You don't leave a mine like this, 'less things get bad, mister."

For the first time a chill went through Wade. True enough, he thought. The mine had been abandoned fast—too fast. Rusty tools strewn the ground.

"They was fools!" Todt muttered. "They never paint hex signs!"

Impatient, as the rain began falling more heavily, Wade drew him toward the elevator cage.

"Come in here," he said. "Out of the rain. I want to sketch the layout of this place."

Beneath him the cage swayed as he stepped in, ahead of Todt. Wade stared at the pile of flares and dynamite sticks in a corner of the cage. He wondered why the miners had left it behind. Had they, as the crazy Todt seemed to think, really been frightened?

Then the cage backed. Above them, thunder shrieked.

"*Heiv Gott!*" Todt screamed, as the lightning bolt struck the base of the winding head tower. The cage began to sink, faster and faster.

"Bolt hit the gear-box," Wade muttered. The other shook with terror as the dank, dripping pit walls slid by. Then, re-acting into sanity, Todt seized the control lever, yanked it to 'safety'. The fall slowed. With a rasping bump they came to rest at the bottom.

"Hundred fifty feet down," Todt stammered, staring into darkness. He struck a match, lit a flare. In his hands it trembled wildly, throwing a flaring cone of light ahead down a coal-seamed tunnel.

"You seem to know a lot about this mine," Wade said hoarsely.

"I—I was here the—the day . . ." Todt's voice failed. His eyes were suffused with horror. Wade glanced at him sharply. Todt looked like a man who knew he must say something in his mind, because, if he did, he might go mad.

With the elevator out of commission, they were trapped, Wade knew.

"How about blasting our way out?" he asked.

"*Ya, ya,*" Todt agreed. "We cannot climb out. There are two tunnels up. One will take hours to blast; the other only a few minutes. We take the longer one."

"Why?" Wade probed.

"The shorter tunnel—it is bad," Todt quavered. "It is bricked up at both ends. They had to brick them up when—when . . ." Again he fell silent, his tongue working jerkily.

"We'll take the shorter tunnel," Wade said decisively. "We can't breathe this air for more than an hour." He knew he had to take command, soothe the whiskey-sodden wreck. It was the only way to safety, he knew, before Todt's mind fell into some abyss of madness.

They walked ahead, Todt glancing back, white-faced, from time to time, at Wade, who trailed behind. Suddenly the ground shook faintly. Todt halted, his knees trembling.

"Get going!" Wade barked. "You know the way. Even I know mine cuts sometime shift a little! Get going, Todt, or . . ."

TODT looked at him for a moment, then shrugged, but the look of horror did not die out of his eyes. He stumbled on, leading, carrying a flare, while Wade toted spare

flares and some sticks of dynamite. Presently, after many twists and turns in the dam tunnels, they came to a bricked-up section of wall. Wade thrust the old man aside, set a stick of dynamite in a crack between two bricks, fixed a fuse. As he set the match, both of them ran back, hiding behind a turn of the tunnel.

The explosion came quickly, reverberating like a thousand cannon shots in the close quarters. Wade pushed forward, through dust and vapour, choking. A jagged hole loomed in the brick-up section of the tunnel wall. Beyond was blackness. Again, under them, the ground shook a little. Wade pushed ahead, dragging Todt with him.

On the other side, both men paused.

From straight ahead, came a stench like the grave. Todt shrank back, screaming suddenly in fear. But Wade only grunted. He knew it could only be the odor of animals that had crawled into the tunnel and died. But again Todt screamed. Wade's eyes jerked ahead, as Todt held up the flare. The promoter's blood froze.

Before them, the blackness moved. And from it came a low, mewing sound. Then, again, the ground shook, the walls bulged. Along the disk of utter black a line split across its middle, like a mouth.

"They bricked it up!" Todt shrieked. "They tried—but it always gets loose!" His mouth working frightfully, he fell back, uttering oaths, making strange hex signs in the death-laden air. Abruptly, Todt jumped backward toward the blasted hole, just as the whole, blast-weakened wall came tumbling down.

Wade, watching, saw the old man's limbs twitch feebly as they protruded from the pile of rubble, then lay still.

Ahead, the blackness stirred again, came on. In the light of the fallen flare, he could see what it was now, what had made the miners run after they had vainly tried to brick it up. It was a black, icy arm of death, a tentacle of some incredible, dark-spawned being of blackness and unknown empty spaces and the fear-filled dreams of the superstitious miners. It filled the whole tunnel, burrowing.

"Todt!" Wade screamed. "Tell me the spells; teach me the hex signs! Todt! Todt! It's coming! Todt!" He clawed in an agony of terror at the dead limbs of the old man. Abruptly, the flare went out, and then the creature of the dark reached him with its strange mouth that smothered, but did not bite; crushed, but did not tear, and made the low, mewing sound as it tasted swift-flowing blood.

The Devil's Birthmark

AN ANCIENT AND EVIL FORCE CAME DOWN THROUGH THE CENTURIES, AND, ONE TERRIBLE NIGHT, INTO THE LIFE OF GEOFFREY POWERS! IT WAS THE END FOR HIM, BUT HE KNEW THAT BEFORE HE FACED ETERNITY HE MUST DESTROY THE CREATURE WHO BORE THE SIGN OF EVIL...



GEOFFREY POWERS, AFTER LONG THOUGHT, MAKES UP HIS MIND! HIS MIND! OUTSIDE THE WIND IS GUSTING AND THE NIGHT IS DREAR—AND INSIDE TERROR AND DEATH WAIT...

IF I MUST DO IT—I MUST! SO I MIGHT AS WELL NOTIFY THE POLICE NOW!



HELLO, POLICE HEADQUARTERS? THIS IS GEOFFREY POWERS, OF 1410 EDGEcombe ROAD! I AM GOING TO KILL SOMEONE! YOU HAD BETTER COME AT ONCE! YOU WILL FIND A NOTE EXPLAINING EVERYTHING...

HEY, WAIT! DON'T HANG UP!



SHE IS A FOUL, UNCLEAN
CREATURE OF EVIL! SOME-
ONE SHOULD HAVE
DESTROYED HER
LONG AGO!



NOBODY KNOWS HOW
MANY LIVES SHE HAS
RUINED DOWN THROUGH
THE CENTURIES! BUT
THIS—THIS GOLDEN
BULLET WILL PUT AN
END TO HER!



TO THINK THAT AFTER ALL THE
YEARS—SHE SHOULD RUN INTO
ME! THE ONE MAN IN NEW YORK
WHO COULD RECOGNIZE HER!
BUT HOW COULD SHE
KNOW...



...THAT I'M AN EXPERT IN
THINGS SUPERNATURAL! OR
THAT I'VE DEVOTED
MY ENTIRE LIFE TO
THE STUDY OF
CREATURES
LIKE HER!



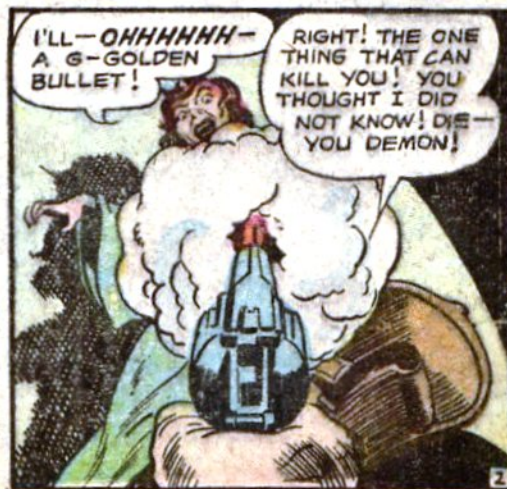
WAITING CALMLY, EH?
YOU STILL THINK YOU'RE
SAFE—THAT I WON'T
KILL YOU? OR THAT
I CAN'T!

FOOL! I'LL
DESTROY YOU
AS I HAVE ALL
THE OTHERS!



I'LL—OHHHHHH—
A G—GOLDEN
BULLET!

RIGHT! THE ONE
THING THAT CAN
KILL YOU! YOU
THOUGHT I DID
NOT KNOW! DIE—
YOU DEMON!



AS SHE LIES ON THE FLOOR, DEAD AT LAST, GEOFFREY POWERS FEELS NO REMORSE, ONLY RELIEF...

IT HAD TO BE DONE! BUT NO ONE WILL UNDERSTAND, OF COURSE! CERTAINLY NOT THE POLICE!

I MUST DESTROY THE BODY COMPLETELY! NOT A TRACE OF HER MUST BE LEFT—EXCEPT POSSIBLY THE BONES!



FIRE IS THE ONLY WAY! BUT EVEN THE FLAMES COULDN'T CLEANSE HER BLACK SOUL—IF SHE EVER HAD A SOUL!

IN YOU GO! AN END TO YOU AND YOUR EVIL—FOR ALL TIME!



THE BODY WRITHES AND BEGINS TO TURN BLACK—THEN SUDDENLY...



H—HORRIBLE! THE EVIL IN HER DIES HARD!

AND NOW FOR MYSELF—THE STORY IS WRITTEN AND PLACED WHERE THE POLICE WILL FIND IT!

I HOPE THEY UNDERSTAND, BUT I DOUBT THAT THEY WILL! AND I HAVE NO TASTE FOR A MURDER TRIAL, OR POSSIBLY AN ASYLUM! THIS IS THE BEST WAY OUT FOR ME! SO...



AND WHEN THE COPS ARRIVE, THEY ARE PUZZLED, BY A NOTE LEFT BY GEOFFREY POWERS...

I DON'T GET IT, LIEUTENANT! WHAT'S A DEMON ANYWAY?

I DON'T KNOW— BUT I'VE HEARD OF POWERS! HE WAS SOME KIND OF EXPERT IN OCCULT MATTERS!

HE LEFT QUITE A MANUSCRIPT EXPLAINING WHY HE KILLED A WOMAN AND BURNT THE BODY! SHE WAS THE DEMON IT SEEMS! HEY— GET A LOAD OF THIS...



THIS IS THE STORY OF SYBIL GOTTFRIED, A DEMON, AS NEARLY AS I CAN TRACE IT! SHE WAS BORN IN THE BLACK FOREST SOMETIME IN THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY...

OUT, OUT! LET YOUR WIFE HAVE HER CHILD IN PEACE!

ALL RIGHT, OLD WOMAN! GO TEND HER!



"BUT WHEN THE MIDWIFE SAW THE CHILD..."

EEEEEEK— THE DEVIL'S BIRTH-MARK!



THE B-BLACK STAR! THIS CHILD IS BORN EVIL— A DEMON! IT MUST BE DESTROYED AT ONCE!



THANK GOODNESS SHE WILL NEVER KNOW SHE GAVE BIRTH TO A MONSTER!

NO! IT IS B-BETTER THAT SHE DIED!





"THAT NIGHT THE FATHER OF THE DEMON CHILD TOOK THE INFANT INTO THE BLACK FOREST..."

"I MUST DO AS IS THE CUSTOM! SHE MUST BE LEFT FOR THE WOLVES TO DEVOUR!"



THERE! I HAVE OBEYED OUR LAW! HER BLOOD IS NOT ON MY HANDS, STILL SHE WILL NOT LIVE THROUGH THE NIGHT! THE WOLVES WILL COME SOON!



"BUT INSTEAD THERE CAME A POOR WOODCUTTER, A MERCIFUL MAN..."

POOR CHILD! THOSE STUPID SUPERSTITIOUS FOOLS LEFT HER TO DIE!



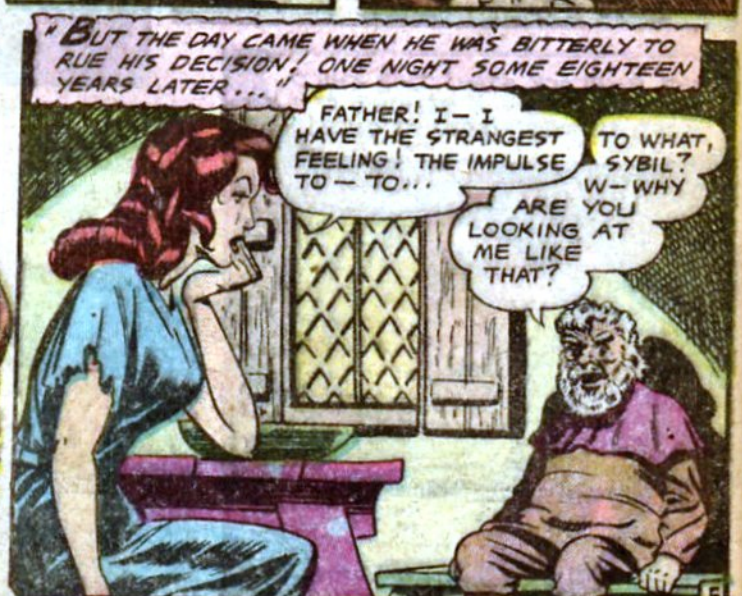
BECAUSE OF A CHANCE BIRTHMARK THEY THINK SHE IS A FIEND IN HUMAN FORM! BAH!



B-BUT EVEN SO— IF THERE WERE ANY TRUTH IN THE OLD STORY ABOUT SUCH A BIRTHMARK! BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! ALL LIES AND SILLY SUPERSTITIONS!



I'LL KEEP THE LITTLE GIRL AND BRING HER UP AS MY OWN! I'M NOT AFRAID OF THEIR OLD WIVES' TALES!



"BUT THE DAY CAME WHEN HE WAS BITTERLY TO RUE HIS DECISION. ONE NIGHT SOME EIGHTEEN YEARS LATER..."

FATHER! I—I HAVE THE STRANGEST FEELING! THE IMPULSE TO— TO...

TO WHAT, SYBIL? W-WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?

TO KILL YOU,
FATHER! TO SAP
YOUR STRENGTH—
TO **FEED** ON
YOU!

GAAA—IT—IT'S
TRUE! Y-YOU ARE
A DEMON!
YUUUUUUUU—

YES, I AM! AT LAST I KNOW IT!
I KNOW WHAT I AM NOW! I'M NOT
HUMAN OR MORTAL! HEE-HEE-
HEE—I FEED ON YOU
MORTALS!

THAT NIGHT SHE LEFT THE BLACK
FOREST, NEVER TO RETURN...

I SEE IT ALL NOW! I UNDERSTAND
SO MUCH! I AM IMMORTAL AND
DEDICATED TO EVIL! AND I'M
POWERFUL—SO POWERFUL!

AS THE LIEUTENANT FINISHES THE
FIRST PART OF THE MANUSCRIPT...

WEIRDIE, HEY?
BUT I GOT A
HUNCH THIS
POWERS KNEW
WHAT HE WAS
TALKING ABOUT!

THAT'S MORE THAN
I DO! DEMONS
AND STUFF!
WHEW!

AND HERE'S A LOT
MORE! BROTHER,
THIS DEMON, OR
DAME, OR WHATEVER
IT WAS, REALLY GOT
AROUND! NOW SHE'S
IN PARIS, IN THE
LAST CENTURY!

HUH! YOU MEAN
SHE WAS FOUR-
HUNDRED YEARS
OLD BY THEN?

"ALL TRACE OF SYBIL WAS LOST FOR ALMOST
FOUR HUNDRED YEARS! THEN, IN PARIS ONE
NIGHT..."

SO NICE OF YOU
TO BRING ME TO
YOUR SUMMER
HOME, MARCEL!
IT'S LOVELY!

YOU MUST SEE
IT, SYBIL! AFTER
ALL, WE ARE TO
BE MARRIED!



"BUT SYBIL HAD BEEN LONG WITHOUT A VICTIM! SHE WAS PALE, WEAK, AND NEEDED TO REPLENISH HER STRENGTH..."

DARLING, YOU LOOK SO STRANGE! IS ANYTHING WRONG?

I'M WEAK, MARCEL, SO AWFULLY WEAK! BUT I—I CAN FIX THAT...



LIKE THIS—
ARRGGGGGG—

SYBIL! WHAT—
AHHHHHH—



THERE! NOW I'M STRONG AGAIN! I FEEL FINE—SO POWERFUL! POOR FOOL! HE NEVER GUESSED THAT I AM NOT HUMAN!



HEE—HEE—FOR CENTURIES NOW I'VE FOOLED THEM ALL! FROM CITY TO CITY, COUNTRY TO COUNTRY! THEY NEVER SUSPECT—UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE!



"AND IN LONDON, SYBIL STRUCK AGAIN..."

HUH! Y—YOU—YOUR FACE! SYBIL! YOU'RE HORRIBLE! YIIIIIIIIII—

HORRIBLE, AM I? WAIT UNTIL I SINK MY TEETH IN YOU!



"SHE DROPPED OUT OF SIGHT AGAIN, UNTIL IN BERLIN IN 1910..."

NO—NO! THE COUSIN OF THE KAISER HIMSELF! BUT I'LL HAVE TO LIE LOW FOR A TIME! TOO MANY PEOPLE KNOW ME BY NOW AND THEY MAY SUSPECT!

"PROBABLY SHE THOUGHT SOMETHING LIKE THIS..."

EUROPE IS NO LONGER FOR ME! MUCH TOO DANGEROUS! I'LL GO TO THE UNITED STATES! I'LL BE SAFE THERE AND THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF VICTIMS!



"SO IT WAS, TONIGHT, THAT I MET SYBIL! IT WAS AT A PARTY, AND FROM THE VERY FIRST I SENSED A STRANGE EVIL ABOUT HER..."

SOMETHING VAGUELY FAMILIAR ABOUT THIS WOMAN! ALMOST AS IF I'D SEEN HER BEFORE!

NICE OF YOU TO DRIVE ME HOME, MR. POWERS! THANKS SO MUCH!

"IN THE CAR I SAW IT—AND KNEW! A GUST OF WIND IN HER HAIR EXPOSED THE BLACK STAR..."

WHY DO YOU STARE, MR. POWERS?

NOTHING! JUST THAT...

IT'S SHE! SYBIL GOTTFRIED! I'VE SEEN THE FACE IN OLD BOOKS ON WITCHCRAFT AND DEMONOLOGY! I'M SURE!

"INSIDE I GAVE HER A SHOCK..."

DO YOU KNOW THAT I'M AN EXPERT IN DEMONOLOGY—SYBIL?

WHAT! Y-YOU KNOW MY RIGHT NAME? WHO AND WHAT I AM?

"I KNEW WHAT I HAD TO DO! I TOOK SYBIL TO MY HOUSE..."

WHY, MR. POWERS, WHAT A NICE SURPRISE!

YES, I THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE SURPRISED!

SHE IS SO SURE OF HERSELF! ALREADY COUNTING ME AS A VICTIM!

"SHE WAS STILL SUPREMELY CONFIDENT AS I PUSHED HER INTO A ROOM..."

NOW YOU WILL SEE, SYBIL! SOON I SHALL SEND YOU BACK INTO THE DARKNESS FROM WHICH YOU CAME!

TALK, FOUL! TALK! I HAVE DEALT WITH OTHERS LIKE YOU!

IF SHE ATTACKS NOW—BEFORE I'M READY...

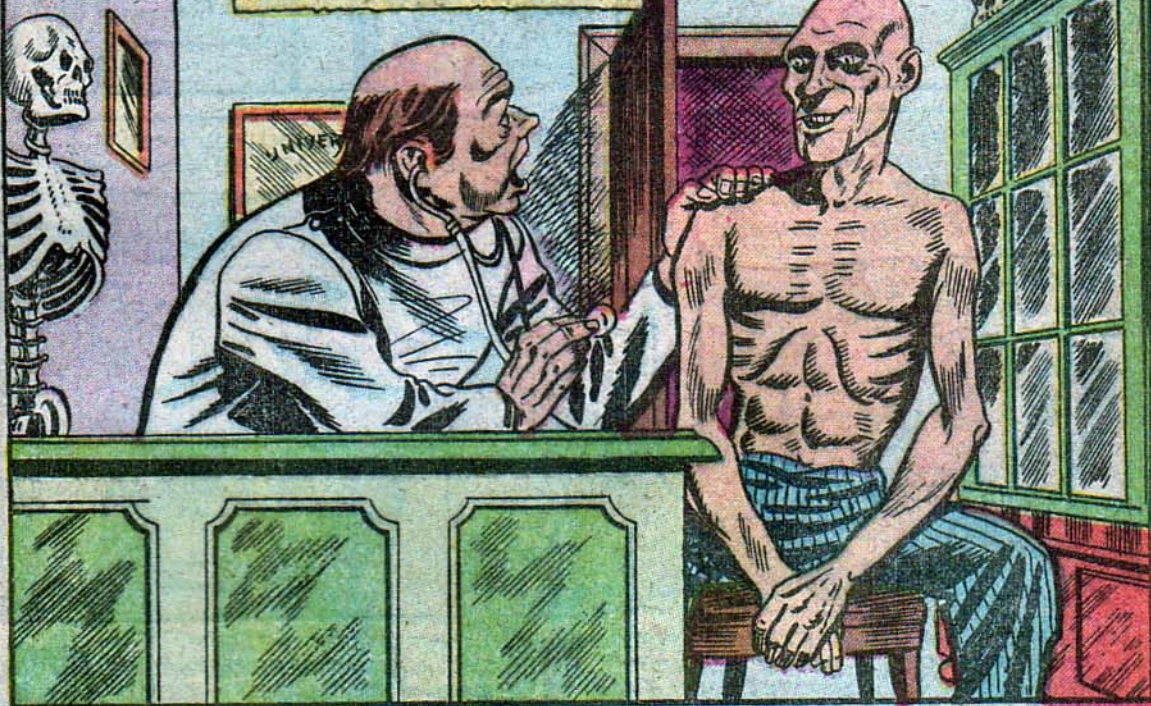
YES, I KNOW OF YOU! I'VE STUDIED YOUR EVIL HISTORY! AND NOW I'M GOING TO DESTROY YOU!

HAH—HAH—HAH! YOU DESTROY ME? WHAT A FOOL YOU MUST BE, MY STUPID FRIEND!



Happily Dead

HARRY BATES WENT TO HIS DOCTOR AND THEN HEARD THE PETRIFYING NEWS— HE WAS DEAD! NO ONE IT SEEMED, HAD BOTHERED TO TELL HIM BEFORE! AND NOW THEY ALL WANTED TO BURY HIM DEAD! SO HE HAD TO ESCAPE INTO OBLIVION...



HARRY BATES GOES FOR A ROUTINE CHECKUP...

HMMM— INCREDIBLE! IMPOSSIBLE! SOMETHING VERY WRONG HERE, MR. BATES! THIS CAN'T BE!

W—WHAT IS IT?

INCREDIBLE AS IT SEEMS, SIR, YOU ARE **DEAD**! YOU'RE ICY COLD, NO HEARTBEAT OR PULSE, NO RESPIRATION! YOU'RE AS DEAD AS THEY COME!

DEAD? ARE YOU CRAZY?



THIS IS THE MOST AMAZING THING I'VE EVER SEEN IN THIRTY YEARS OF MEDICINE! OF COURSE YOU REALIZE I'LL HAVE TO REPORT THIS IMMEDIATELY!

REPORT IT? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



HE SOON FINDS OUT...

HELLO, POLICE? PLEASE COME TO MY OFFICE AT ONCE! I'VE A VERY STRANGE CASE AND...

THE POLICE? WHEW! I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!

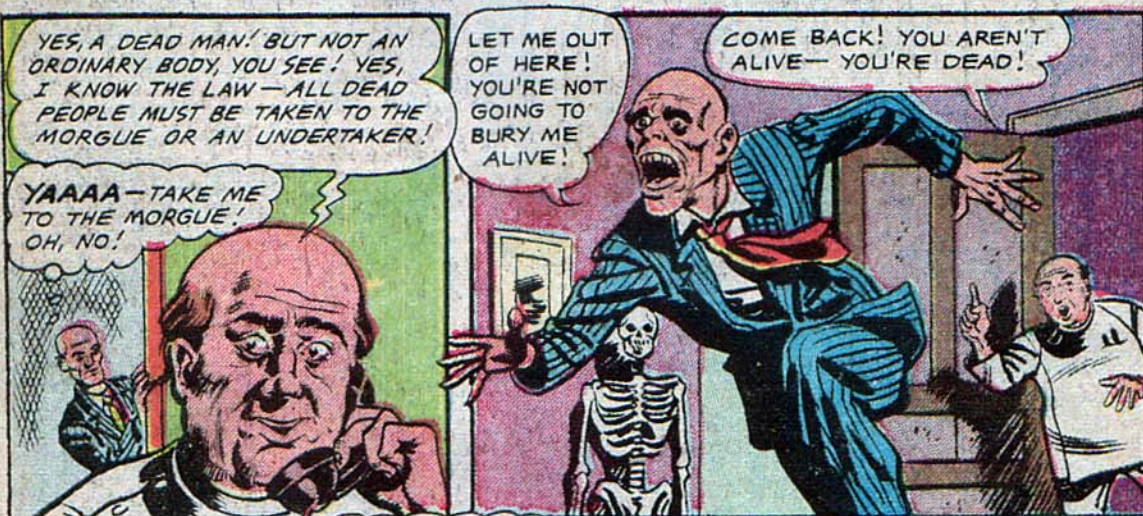


YES, A DEAD MAN! BUT NOT AN ORDINARY BODY, YOU SEE! YES, I KNOW THE LAW—ALL DEAD PEOPLE MUST BE TAKEN TO THE MORGUE OR AN UNDERTAKER!

YAAAA—TAKE ME TO THE MORGUE! OH, NO!

LET ME OUT OF HERE! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BURY ME ALIVE!

COME BACK! YOU AREN'T ALIVE—YOU'RE DEAD!



A FEW MINUTES LATER, HARRY BATES, LURKING DOWN THE STREET, SEES THE POLICE ENTER THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE...

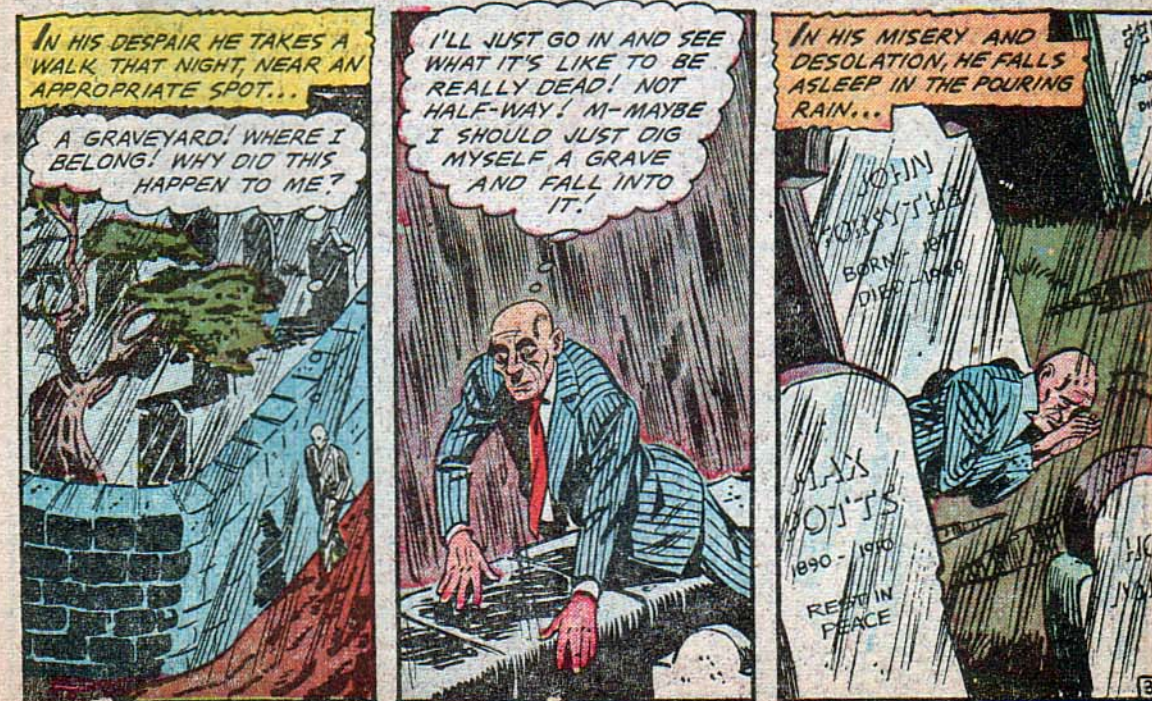
AFTER ME! THEY WOULD REALLY—(CHOKES)—TAKE ME TO THE MORGUE, BURY ME, JUST BECAUSE THAT STUPID DOCTOR SAID I WAS DEAD!

SO THAT NIGHT...

I HAVE BEEN FEELING COLD LATELY—SEEMS

LIKE I WAS NEVER WARM! AND I DON'T BREATHE LIKE OTHER PEOPLE. SO MAYBE I AM DEAD, BUT I'M NOT GOING TO LET THEM BOTHER ME!





HE IS SUDDENLY AWAKENED...

THERE HE IS, OFFICERS! LIKE I TOLD YOU! TRESPASSING!

WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA, FELLA?

GET UP, YOU!

I—I WASN'T DOING ANY HARM!



AND...

COME ON, NOW, NO TROUBLE!

NO! LEAVE ME ALONE! I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING!

TAKE IT EASY! WE'RE JUST GOING TO PLACE YOU UNDER OBSERVATION!

BELL INSAN ASYLUM



LATER...

W-WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

JUST EXAMINE YOU! NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF, AND THE CITY IS PAYING FOR IT!



BUT IT IS AS HARRY BATES FEARED...

YOU — HUH! N-NO HEARTBEAT! BUT THIS CAN'T BE...

YES, IT CAN! I'M DEAD! I'VE BEEN DEAD FOR YEARS!



YOU ARE DEAD! I'LL HAVE TO REPORT THIS AND—
GAAAAAA—

NO YOU DON'T! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SEND ME TO ANY MORGUE, LAW OR NO LAW!



STOP HIM! DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!

GOT TO ESCAPE! THEY ALL WANT TO BURY ME!

GET THAT MAN! HE'S DEAD!



BUT AGAIN HE ESCAPES AND GOES TO STILL ANOTHER TOWN! HERE THINGS GO BETTER...

HE WORKS IN AN ICE PLANT...

HIS FELLOW WORKERS NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE IT! COLD DOESN'T BOTHER HIM! SOME SORT OF IMMUNITY!

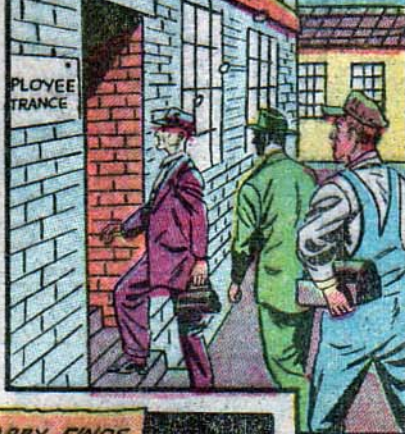
THEY ALL THINK I'M A BIT PECULIAR, BUT THEY CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY! HO—WHAT I COULD TELL THEM!

LOOK, BATES IS WORKING IN THERE IN ONLY HIS STREET CLOTHES!

LIKE IT! COLD DOESN'T BOTHER HIM!

SOME SORT OF IMMUNITY!

AT LAST I'VE GOT JUST THE JOB FOR ME! NO ONE—(CHUCKLE)—EVER COMPLAINS ABOUT MY COLDNESS, AT LEAST!



COLD ROOM DANGER!



AND EVEN BETTER—HARRY FINDS HIMSELF A GIRL...

HELLO, ANGELA! HOW ABOUT A NICE DINNER AND THEN A DRIVE IN THE COUNTRY?

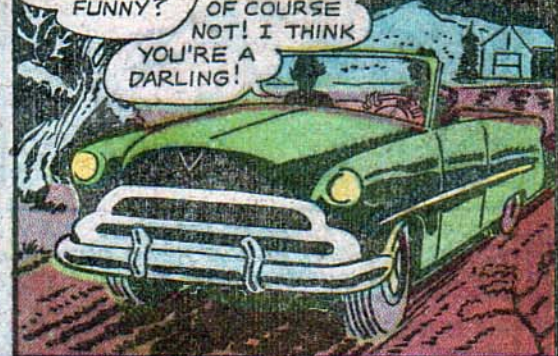
OH, I'D LOVE THAT, HARRY! YOU'RE SO SWEET!



LATER...

ANGELA, I—THAT IS, DON'T YOU EVER THINK I'M A LITTLE PECULIAR? FUNNY?

PECULIAR? OF COURSE NOT! I THINK YOU'RE A DARLING!



W—WOULD YOU MARRY ME, THEN?

OF COURSE I WILL! I'VE BEEN HOPING YOU WOULD ASK ME!



THAT NIGHT HARRY BATES IS PUZZLED...

HMMM—IT IS STRANGE! ANGELA PROMISED TO MARRY ME—AND SHE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO DOESN'T SEEM TO NOTICE THAT THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT ME—THAT I'M DEAD!



SO THEY GOT MARRIED! NOT LONG AFTERWARD...

WONDER WHO THAT COULD BE? ANGELA HAS GONE TO THE DOCTOR—BUT SHE MIGHT BE CALLING ABOUT SOMETHING!

R-R-RING!



BUT THE DOCTOR IS ON THE PHONE...

MR. BATES? I MUST SEE YOU AT ONCE! A MOST EXTRAORDINARY THING—I WAS EXAMINING YOUR WIFE, AND...

IS—IS ANYTHING WRONG WITH MY WIFE?

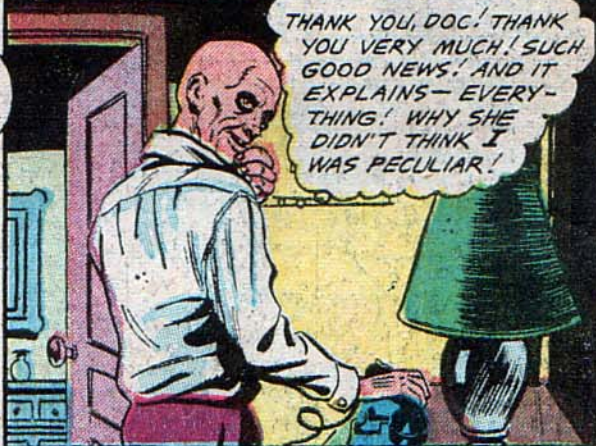


YES, AN INCREDIBLE THING! I, ER, THAT IS—YOUR WIFE IS **DEAD!** NO, NOT IN THE REAL SENSE, BUT DEAD NEVERTHELESS! SHE HAS NO HEART-BEAT, NO PULSE, NO RESPIRATION!



A STRANGE SMILE FLITS ACROSS THE FACE OF HARRY BATES...

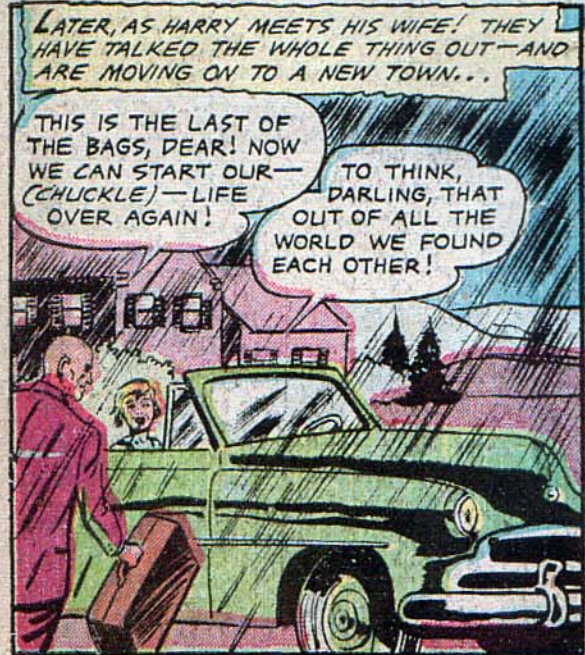
THANK YOU, DOC! THANK YOU VERY MUCH! SUCH GOOD NEWS! AND IT EXPLAINS—EVERYTHING! WHY SHE DIDN'T THINK I WAS PECULIAR!



LATER, AS HARRY MEETS HIS WIFE! THEY HAVE TALKED THE WHOLE THING OUT—AND ARE MOVING ON TO A NEW TOWN...

THIS IS THE LAST OF THE BAGS, DEAR! NOW WE CAN START OUR—(CHUCKLE)—LIFE OVER AGAIN!

TO THINK, DARLING, THAT OUT OF ALL THE WORLD WE FOUND EACH OTHER!



YES, THE TWO PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WHO ARE WALKING AROUND DEAD!

DARLING! WHO CARES? WE HAVE EACH OTHER—AND WE'LL DIE HAPPILY EVER AFTER!



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I enclose \$ _____ in full payment, ship prepaid with no extra charges.
☐ C.O.D. Order
I enclose no money but will pay postman \$ _____ plus postage and C.O.D. Charges.
**SATISFACTION GUARANTEED OR MONEY REFUNDED,
IF GOODS RETURNED WITHIN SEVEN DAYS.**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ State _____

Prov _____